

Remarks

Summary

Fig. 1 of the drawings has been amended. Claims 1, 3-7, and 12 have been amended. Claims 2 and 14 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7 and 11-13 are now pending in the application.

Objection to Drawings

Pursuant to the Office Action's requirement, Fig. 1 of the drawings has been amended to include the legend "Prior Art".

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being indefinite. Without acquiescing to the Examiner's reasoning, claim 7 was amended to provide clarification of claim 7. In particular, claim 7 was amended to read "the output of the first inverter is the first signal", and "the input circuit further outputs a second signal from the second inverter".

In a related matter, claim 7 was also amended to recite that the gate of the first NMOS transistor receives the "second signal" instead of the "first signal" and that the gate of the second NMOS transistor receives the "first signal" instead of the "second signal".

Having made these changes, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 7 is not indefinite and therefore request that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Tsuda

Claims 1, 6, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 5-315931 to Tsuda (hereafter, Tsuda).

The rejection of claims 1 and 6 has been rendered moot by the incorporation of the subject matter of original dependent claim 2 into claim 1. The subject matter of original dependent claim 2 having been deemed allowable, amended independent claim 1 as well as dependent claims 3-7 are allowable over the art of record.

As a separate matter, the rejection of claim 12 is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Tsuda fails to disclose “a detection circuit which detects an interruption in the supply of the first voltage level” as recited by claim 12. Instead, detecting circuit 10 in Tsuda detects whether voltage VCC “goes up unusually as shown in the wave form chart of drawing 5” (See, Tsuda at paragraph [0005]). According to Tsuda, where “VCC exceeds abnormality detection level”, “the output signal of a detecting circuit 10 becomes 1” (See, Tsuda at paragraph [0016]). However, Tsuda does not describe the behavior of detector 10 for cases where VCC is interrupted.

In the exemplary detecting circuit described by Tsuda (see, Fig. 4 and paragraph [0014]), a comparator is used as “the abnormality detecting circuit in VCC” (See, Tsuda at paragraph [0014]). However, the behavior of the comparator is not described for cases where VCC is interrupted. Rather, based on the discussion (see, paragraph [0016]) in Tsuda, one must assume that the comparator outputs a logical “1” in cases where VCC is abnormally high, thereby fixing T1 to logical “0”. In contrast, where VCC is interrupted, the comparator might actually behave in the same way as it would when VCC is at normal levels. Because Tsuda fails to describe the behavior of the comparator

or the detecting circuit 10 in cases where VCC is interrupted, Tsuda does not anticipate amended claim 12.

For at least the reasons stated above, applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Tsuda is unsupported by the disclosure of Tsuda and should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Konishi

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,373,285 to Konishi (hereafter, Konishi).

This rejection is rendered moot by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 14 into claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Tsuda in view of Konishi

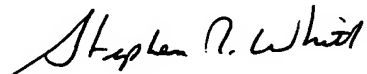
Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Tsuda in view of Konishi.

Again, this rejection is rendered moot by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 2 into claim 1.

Conclusion

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and a favorable action on pending claims 1, 3-7, and 11-13 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace Fig. 1 with the replacement sheet attached hereto.

The replacement sheet is the same as the original, except that a legend
“(Prior Art)” has been added.